



HANDHELDS

FAQ

Q I've heard that ActiveSync 4 is incompatible with some personal firewall software. Why is this, and is there a way around it without disabling my firewall?

A Unlike previous versions of ActiveSync, ActiveSync 4 uses TCP/IP to connect to your handheld device. This is the same protocol that Windows uses to connect to networks and the internet, so any programs that affect TCP/IP traffic may also affect your ActiveSync connection.

Your firewall is probably configured to block the ports that ActiveSync needs to communicate with your handheld, so you will need to open ports 990, 999, 5678, 5679, 5721 and 26675 on your desktop firewall for the connection to work.

Many firewalls also block unauthorised programs accessing the internet. It may mistake the ActiveSync connection for an internet connection and try to block ActiveSync opening a connection to your handheld. You will have to tell your firewall to allow network traffic from all the ActiveSync application processes.

You can find more details about how to fix problems with ActiveSync and personal firewall software as well as problems with network connection managers and parental control programs at www.microsoft.com/windowsmobile/help/activesync/default.mspx. There is also a new version of ActiveSync, version 4.1, available for download from www.microsoft.com/windowsmobile/downloads/activesync41.mspx.

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REVIEW WRIST PDA

FOSSIL ABACUS Wrist PDA

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £80 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.e-bowl.co.uk

DETAILS www.abacuswatches.com

For over 20 years, Casio Databank watches have made it possible for people to keep their address book on their wrist, but entering data using tiny buttons is tricky. Fossil's Abacus Wrist PDA is best described as a Palm PDA with a strap on it, and combines the ease of use of a touch screen with the flexible data handling of the Palm OS.

The Abacus is slightly larger than a chunky sports watch and fairly heavy. The strap is made of hard rubber, so it's not the most comfortable watch to wear. There are some neat design touches, though, such as the stylus, which fits unobtrusively into the strap's buckle, and all the PDA's functions can be accessed using the short cut buttons on both sides of the watch.

The Wrist PDA runs Palm OS 4.1, which, although an older version, still has fairly powerful contacts and calendar applications. The watch connects to your PC using a USB cable, and can synchronise with Outlook using the supplied HotSync software. The PDA has 8MB of internal memory of which around 7.7MB is available. This is enough for a substantial address book and busy diary. The OS also supports third-party applications that are compatible with Palm OS 4.1, and a few games are supplied on the installation CD.

Despite its small size, the Abacus's screen has a high 160x160 pixel resolution, so text is clear and easy to read. The watch's 66MHz processor also has enough power to run the OS smoothly with little slowdown or lag. It's easier to use the watch's short cut buttons to scroll through the OS's functions, as



the touch screen isn't very accurate and you need to press down hard with the stylus before the watch responds.

Entering text is easier. You can choose between the standard Palm OS Graffiti handwriting-recognition software or the preinstalled Jot application. If you're used to the Graffiti style of letters it makes writing faster, but the Jot software is very good at recognising

letters and numbers. There isn't room for a dedicated text-entry box, so you scribble anywhere on the screen to enter text.

PDA functions aside, the Abacus works reasonably well as a watch. The screen can display a number of different analogue and digital styles in watch mode, and there is a backlight so you can see the watch face in the dark. The main problem is the battery life: the watch lasts for only two or three days with light PDA use, which is very poor compared to the five to 10 years you will get from a normal digital watch.

Fossil's Abacus Wrist PDA is a novel idea that is fairly well executed. Battery life and weight aside, it works well as a watch and as a basic PDA. However, the watch offers few functions that a modern smartphone does not, so we can't help but feel this is one gadget too many to carry around.

Chris Finnamore

✓ Fast OS; clear screen

✗ Large and heavy; poor battery life

SPECIFICATIONS PDA watch, Palm OS 4.1, 160x160 pixel greyscale LCD, Motorola Dragonball Super VZ 66MHz processor, 7.7MB available memory, USB connection

HOTLIST PDA

PALM LifeDrive

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £287 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.amazon.co.uk

DETAILS www.palm.com

Palm's LifeDrive is a Palm OS-based PDA with an integrated 4GB hard disk. It has all the usual Palm organiser functions, but can also be used as an audio and video player, or simply for storage.

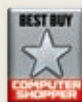
The PDA doesn't come with headphones, but audio playback is impressive. The LifeDrive is good value for a combined PDA and audio player.



SPECIFICATIONS Multimedia PDA, Palm OS 5.4, 416MHz Intel XScale processor, 4GB disk space, Bluetooth, 802.11b wireless networking, SD card slot

HOTLIST MOBILE PHONE

SONY ERICSSON W800i



RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £325 SIM-free; from free to £200 with contract

SUPPLIER www.epinnacle.co.uk

(SIM-free); Orange/Vodafone/O₂/T-Mobile/Virgin (contract)

DETAILS www.sonyericsson.co.uk

This is a superb music player and phone in one. Transferring music to the phone is easy using the supplied software, and the phone's music-playing application is fast. Sound quality is superb, and the camera is the best we have seen on a phone.



SPECIFICATIONS Music phone, tri-band, 400 hours standby, 540 minutes talk time, Bluetooth/IR connectivity, radio, 512MB memory Stick Duo, 176x200-pixel display, 99g, 100x46x20.5mm (HWD). Part code W800

HOTLIST PDA

T-MOBILE MDA Pro

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £150 to £350 inc VAT depending on contract

SUPPLIER T-Mobile 01707 315000

DETAILS www.t-mobile.co.uk

The MDA Pro is the first PDA and phone combination we have seen with Windows Mobile 5. Its clamshell body opens to reveal a full-size keyboard, so it's perfect for typing emails and the occasional document. Wireless networking and GPRS are built in, making the MDA Pro excellent for messaging.



SPECIFICATIONS Windows Mobile 5, 520MHz Intel PXA270 processor, 48MB RAM, 3.6" 640x480 screen, 3G/GPRS/Bluetooth/802.11b/IR/USB connectivity, built-in QWERTY keyboard, 1.3-megapixel camera, SD card slot, 79x22x132mm, weighs 210g



REVIEW GPS NAVIGATION PACK

TOMTOM Navigator 5 Navigation Pack

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £349 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.eurosim.comDETAILS www.tomtom.com

As well as its standalone navigation devices, TomTom makes navigation software for Pocket PC PDAs and Symbian smartphones. The Navigator 5 Navigation Pack consists of an HP Compaq hx2110 PDA, an SD card with TomTom Navigator 5, a Bluetooth GPS receiver and a car-mounting kit.

Installing the software and setting up the receiver is easy. Putting the SD card into the PDA's card slot automatically installs the software and pairing the receiver with the PDA is a simple matter of turning on Bluetooth and selecting the receiver in the menu. The car-mounting kit can either be attached to the windscreen or the dashboard, and the kit comes with a cigarette lighter adaptor that powers the PDA and GPS receiver.

Once you have paired the receiver with the PDA it takes only a few seconds to find a GPS signal. The receiver uses a SirfStar III GPS chip, which is sensitive enough to pick up a signal even when the receiver is in the car's glove box.

The navigation software uses the same interface as TomTom's standalone GPS systems. The main menu buttons are big enough to operate with a finger if you don't want to use the stylus, and the icons are large and clear. Planning a route is simple. You have the option of navigating to an address, a city centre or a point of interest.

To enter an address, you can either type in the city or the postcode. The comprehensive Points of Interest database is split into categories such as tourist attractions, airports and restaurants, and there are a huge number of extra Point of Interest



databases available online. Route calculation is fast, with a journey from Central London to John O'Groats taking under 10 seconds to plot. When on the move the 3D display updates smoothly and voice prompts are given well in advance of turnings, but the PDA's speaker has trouble coping with road and wind noise.

TomTom's Navigator 5 is an excellent GPS navigation package, and the Navigation Pack has the advantage of being pre-configured and easy to set up, as well as containing everything you need to install GPS navigation in your car. To buy the PDA, software and GPS receiver separately would cost around £450, so the Navigation Pack is good value if you want a PDA as well as a navigation system. If you just need to find your way around, though, the standalone TomTom Go 300 has a louder speaker and is £60 cheaper, as well as requiring fewer cables to be strewn around your car's interior.

Chris Finnamore

✓ Fast route calculation; software is quick and easy to use

✗ Quiet speaker

SPECIFICATIONS GPS navigation kit, HP iPAQ hx2110 PDA, TomTom Bluetooth GPS receiver, TomTom Navigator 5 software, windscreen/dashboard mount

HOTLIST POCKET PC

ACER n50 Premium

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £231 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.dabs.comDETAILS www.acer.co.uk

Acer's n50 won a Best Buy award in our PDA Megatest (*Labs, Shopper* August 2005) with its powerful performance, stylish looks and low price. It has a brushed metal effect casing and simple, uncluttered design. Applications start up almost instantly. It has good battery life and infrared, Bluetooth and wireless networking built in, as well as a generous 124MB of user-available storage. Excellent value.



SPECIFICATIONS Intel PXA272 520MHz processor, 124.27MB RAM, SD card slot, Windows Mobile 2003 SE, weighs 150g. Part code CP.N500H.024

HOTLIST SMARTPHONE GPS KIT

NAVICORE Personal for Symbian Series 60

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £175 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.mobilefun.co.ukDETAILS www.navicoretech.com

Navicore's Personal is a GPS navigation system for the Symbian Series 60 operating system, as used by Nokia and Siemens smartphones. It consists of a Bluetooth GPS receiver and an RS MMC card containing the map program.

Planning a route is easy thanks to the logical software, and voice prompts are clear and accurate. It's not cheap, but it's the best GPS system for a series 60 phone.



SPECIFICATIONS GPS Navigation for Symbian Series 60 OS, Sirf III Bluetooth GPS receiver, UK maps. Part code 133-8432

CHOOSING...

GPS KIT



Six points to bear in mind when buying GPS equipment

If you want a satellite navigation system, you don't have to have it built into your car for a four-figure sum. A PDA, GPS receiver and software with routing abilities can do the job better for as little as £290.

1 The receiver is usually a black box the size of a matchbox but it can be in jacket format, so your PDA slides into it, or a CompactFlash card. All the popular software packages allow you to navigate to a location by entering its address or by finding it on a map.

2 A PDA bought to run navigation software will also offer all the usual PDA functions and be compatible with other applications, so you can use it for work when you're not driving. GPS software is available for both the Palm and Pocket PC platforms. If you choose to buy a bundle it is wise to check the model of PDA included and look at its reviews. Some suppliers may bundle grey imports or discontinued models in order to offer a lower price.

3 Bluetooth GPS receivers transfer data wirelessly to your PDA and reduce the number of cables cluttering up your car. The cost is significantly higher because you need a PDA with Bluetooth capability, and there's another battery to keep charged.

4 Two popular bundled software packages are TomTom Navigator 5 and Navman Smart ST Pro 3. They both include 3D views and allow you to navigate according to address.

5 Some products, such as TomTom Navigator 5, can be set up to display real-time traffic information on your route ahead. This adds to the cost because data must be subscribed to and downloaded using a mobile phone.

FILL IN YOUR SPECS HERE

(Recommended minimum in grey)

PDA: Pocket PC or Palm OS

GPS RECEIVER: Wired or jacket

MAP COVERAGE: UK

TRAFFIC DATA: No